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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 000135

SIPDIS DRL FOR A/S POSNER FOR NEA, NEA/ELA AND DRL/NESCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2035/01/28
TAGS: PREL PGOV PHUM EG
SUBJECT: PROMINENT BLOGGER APPEALING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PRISON
SENTENCE REF: CAIRO 99; 09 CAIRO 1447; 09 CAIRO 1263 CLASSIFIED BY: Matthew H. Tueller, Deputy Chief of Mission; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1.KEY POINTS -- (U) On January 20, a Cairo court upheld a previous decision sentencing prominent blogger Wael Abbas to six months in prison for 2.(C) Comment: We believe a USG statement before February 18 could be counterproductive, causing the GOE to encourage the judge to uphold the s

3.(C) On January 20, a Cairo court upheld a previous "in absentia" decision sentencing prominent blogger Wael Abbas to six months in prison for 4.(C) Abbas is currently free on LE 500 (80 USD) bail, pending his appeal of the case. XXXXXXXXXXXXX told us January 28 that the case against Ab

5.(C) XXXXXXXXXXX said the appeals court judge will probably issue a CAIRO 00000135 002 OF 002 ruling during a scheduled February 18 court ses

6.(C) On January 27, we demarched MFA Deputy Director for Human Rights Omar Shalaby on the case, noting our concern over the appearance of GOE